



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

March 1, 2005

News Release

8 ARRESTED ON FEDERAL PROSTITUTION CHARGES, 4 ARRESTED ON STATE CHARGES AT ROCKFORD MASSAGE PARLORS

ROCKFORD, Ill.—Two men and six women were arrested by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and other federal and local law enforcement, during execution of a search warrant Sunday targeting five Rockford health spas that allegedly were used as fronts for prostitution.

The eight arrested were charged with conspiring to use interstate telephone lines to transmit credit card information to aid racketeering enterprises involving prostitution. Four others were arrested on state prostitution-related charges; an additional seven illegal aliens were also taken into custody by ICE agents.

Patrick J. Fitzgerald, U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, announced the arrests following a joint investigation by ICE, FBI, IRS, the U.S. Postal Service, and the Rockford Police Department.

Kenneth Lee, aka “Kyung Lee,” 39, Young Ja Hwang, 52, and Mi Ran Park, 45, all from Rockford, were charged with conspiring to use telephone lines to transmit credit card information to aid racketeering enterprises, namely the Paradise Health Spa located at 278 North Phelps Ave., and the Pine Tree Spa, located at 4315 East State St. Lee and Hwang have been arrested; an arrest warrant has been issued for Park.

David L. Kubly and Pun I. Hodge, both of Rockford, and Kyong Cha Park, 56, of Skokie, Ill., and Oknyon Moser, 51, of Warren, Ohio were charged with conspiring to use telephone lines to transmit credit card information to aid racketeering enterprises, namely the Royal Health Spa located at 4103 South Main St. Kubly, Park and Hodge were arrested and an arrest warrant has been issued for Moser.

Myung Ok Lee, 70, of Rockford, and Mia Deboer, 50, of Caledonia, Mich., were arrested and charged with conspiring to use telephone lines to transmit credit card information to aid racketeering enterprises, namely the Tokyo Oriental Health Spa located at 1538 Broadway.

Ok Yon Klinge, 49, of Rockford, was arrested and charged with conspiring with unnamed others to use telephone lines to transmit credit card information to aid racketeering enterprises, namely the Rainbow Health Spa formerly located at 4734 East State St.

According to the criminal complaints, these spas were fronts for prostitution. When spa customers paid by credit card, the businesses used interstate telephone lines to transmit the credit card charge information to credit card processing services in order for the prostitution businesses to obtain the receipts.

Each complaint alleged that when a customer arrived at the various spas, the customer paid an up-front fee, termed "front money," for either a half hour or an hour of massage time. The customer and the attendant then further negotiated the price for other services to be rendered, most often of a sexual nature. The price negotiated for the sexual service is termed the "back money." The complaints further allege that the average income generated by each spa per customer was \$200, and that the spas averaged between 10 to 30 customers per day. The complaints also indicated that customers sometimes used credit and/or debit cards to pay for the prostitution provided at the spas.

If convicted of the federal charge, each defendant faces a maximum potential sentence of five years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine.

Members of the public are reminded that a criminal complaint is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. Each defendant is entitled to indictment by a federal grand jury and a fair trial at which time the government has the burden of proving each defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

In conjunction with the federal arrests and execution of the five search warrants, four individuals were arrested on state prostitution-related charges. Charged with prostitution were: Kyong Sook Han, 34, of Rockford; Mihwa Yuk, 31, of Los Angeles; Kyung Ran Kim of Lorton, Va. Charged with pandering was Yong Se Yi, 58, of Rockford. Han, Yuk and Kim are all illegal aliens from Korea. During the enforcement operation, an additional seven women, all illegal aliens from Korea and China, were taken into ICE custody. All 10 women are currently being held in ICE custody pending removal from the United States.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.